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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 3, 2003**

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### **DEA LICENSEE SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on February 3, 2003, FAHMI ALI, DOB: 6/16/55, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to 121 months imprisonment, \$100,000 fine and 3 years supervised release, by United States District Judge Earl H. Carroll, in Phoenix, Arizona.

The defendant had pled guilty to a two count indictment charging him with possessing pseudoephedrine knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine on April 12, 2001, in the middle of his criminal trial before Judge Carroll. During trial, witnesses testified that the defendant had obtained a DEA registration number and had opened a business called Helal Distributing. Government witnesses indicated that Helal Distributing purchased approximately 1200 pounds of pseudoephedrine from May 1999 until a search warrant was executed by DEA agents on the business on April 11, 2000.

Although the defendant had pled guilty to the charges, sentencing was delayed numerous times as a result of the defendant's attempts to withdraw that guilty plea. When sentencing the defendant to the maximum available under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, the court commented that he was imposing such

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a sentence because the defendant's criminal conduct was for a significant period of time and had caused harm to the community in terms of the amount of pseudoephedrine that had been sold to methamphetamine manufacturers.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The prosecution was handled by Ann Birmingham Scheel, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-00-828-PHX-EHC  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-017

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